

## CLAIM OR CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A polymer-linked-asphalt composition derived from treating asphalt with a reactant epoxy-containing ethylene copolymer and a  
5 reactant polystyrene-maleic anhydride copolymer wherein the cumulative polymer content of said polymer-linked-asphalt composition is from 0.05 to 20 weight percent relative to the total weight of polymers and asphalt.
2. The composition of Claim 1 wherein said reactant epoxy-containing ethylene copolymer is a glycidyl-containing polymer.
- 10 3. The composition of Claim 2 wherein said reactant glycidyl-containing ethylene copolymer is a copolymer represented by the formula  $E/X/Y/Z$ , where E is the copolymer unit  $-(CH_2CH_2)-$  derived from ethylene; X is the copolymer unit  $-(CH_2CR^1R^2)-$ , where  $R^1$  is hydrogen, methyl, or ethyl, and  $R^2$  is carboalkoxy, acyloxy, or alkoxy of 1 to 10 carbon atoms (X  
15 for example is derived from alkyl acrylates, alkyl methacrylates, vinyl esters, and alkyl vinyl ethers); and Y is the copolymer unit  $-(CH_2CR^3R^4)-$ , where  $R^3$  is hydrogen or methyl and  $R^4$  is carboglycidoxo or glycidoxo (Y for example is derived from glycidyl acrylate, glycidyl methacrylate, or glycidyl vinyl ether) and Z is derived from comonomers including carbon  
20 monoxide, sulfur dioxide, acrylonitrile, or other monomers.
4. The composition of Claim 3 wherein X is from 0 to 50 weight % of said  $E/X/Y/Z$  copolymer, Y is from 0.5 to 15 weight % of said  $E/X/Y/Z$  copolymer, and Z is from 0 to 15 weight % of said  $E/X/Y/Z$  copolymer, E being the remainder.
- 25 5. The composition of Claim 2 wherein said reactant glycidyl-containing ethylene copolymer is an  $E/X/Y$  copolymer derived from copolymerization of ethylene, n-butyl acrylate and glycidyl methacrylate.
6. The composition of Claim 1 wherein said reactant polystyrene-maleic anhydride copolymer contains 0.5 to 40 weight %  
30 maleic anhydride.
7. The composition of Claim 6 wherein said reactant polystyrene-maleic anhydride copolymer contains 3 to 20 weight % maleic anhydride

8. The composition of Claim 7 wherein said reactant polystyrene-maleic anhydride copolymer contains 5 to 15 weight % maleic anhydride.

5 9. The composition of Claim 1 wherein said reactant epoxy-containing ethylene copolymer comprises 1 to 4 weight percent of the reaction mixture and said reactant polystyrene-maleic anhydride copolymer comprises 1 to 4 weight percent of the reaction mixture.

10 10. The composition of Claim 1 wherein said reactant epoxy-containing ethylene copolymer is an E/X/Y copolymer derived from copolymerization of ethylene, n-butyl acrylate and glycidyl methacrylate comprises 3% of the reaction mixture and said reactant polystyrene-maleic anhydride copolymer comprises 2 to 3 % of the reaction mixture.